

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 5, 6, 8, 11, and 17 and cancel claim 1, as shown in the following listing of claims, which will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice to its pursuit in an appropriate continuation or divisional application.

Listing of claims:

1. – 4. (canceled)

5 (Amended). A recombinant vector comprising ~~the DNA described in claim 1~~ a DNA which comprises a human uncoupling protein-2 (UCP-2) promoter region, which consists of all or a part of a base sequence consisting of nucleotides 1 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the part of the base sequence consists of nucleotides 255 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 717 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 1133 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 1389 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 1857 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 571 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1389 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 1634 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6 (Amended). The recombinant vector described in claim 5, which further comprises a DNA comprising a ~~structural gene~~ base sequence encoding a reporter molecule of which expression is under control of the human UCP-2 promoter region.

7. A transformant transformed by the recombinant vector described in claim 5.

8(Amended). A method for screening for a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits a human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:

- a. measuring the expression level of a reporter molecule~~structural gene~~ in a transformant, with a human UCP-2 promoter sequence and a base sequence encoding the reporter molecule inserted downstream of the human UCP-2 promoter, contacted to a first sample of the compound or its salt and that in a control transformant, with a base sequence encoding the reporter molecule but with no human UCP-2 promoter, contacted to a second sample of the compound or its salt,
wherein the human UCP-2 promoter sequence consists of all or a part of a base sequence consisting of nucleotides 1 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the part of the base sequence consists of nucleotides 255 to 430 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 717 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 1133 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 1389 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 1857 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 571 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1389 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 1634 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- b. comparing the expression levels thereof.

9-10 (canceled).

11(Amended). A kit for screening for a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits a human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:

- a. a medium for culturing a host animal cell line;
- b. a plasmid for measurement of the human UCP-2 promoter activity, which comprises:
 - i. plasmid DNA carrying a human UCP-2 promoter sequence, wherein the human UCP-2 promoter sequence consists of all or a part of a base sequence

consisting of nucleotides 1 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the part of the base sequence consists of nucleotides 255 to 430 of ~~[[EQ]]~~ SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 717 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 1133 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 1389 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 255 to 1857 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 571 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 717 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1133 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, nucleotides 1389 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or nucleotides 1634 to 2270 of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

ii. a base sequence encoding a reporter molecule~~structural gene~~ inserted downstream of the human UCP-2 promoter; and

c. a host animal cell line.

12-16 (canceled).

17(Amended). The kit of claim 11, wherein the reporter molecule~~structural gene~~ is a luciferase ~~[[gene]]~~.